

## COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE.

### THE SPEAKER WORK TAKING SHAPE.

AN EXPECTATION THAT HE WILL ANNOUNCE HIS APPOINTMENTS ON MONDAY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Speaker Carlisle seemed to be rather more cheerful to-night; he feels pretty confident that he will be able to announce the committees on Monday. The action of the House in adding four new committees will be some relief to him, especially as two of the chairmanships thus created are desirable. It is hoped S. S. Cox may be persuaded to accept with some degree of cheerfulness the chairmanship of the Committee on Shipping in place of that on Foreign Affairs, provided the latter is not given to Perry Belmont. The pressure in favor of this young man has been enormous, and it has undoubtedly given the Speaker more annoyance than anything else, aside from the conflicting ambitions of Representatives from his own State.

"August Belmont has been a prominent member of the Democratic party for nearly half a century, and has given liberally of his substance to promote its interests. He is expected to decline with even greater liberality next year. He desires no political reward for himself, but he demands this preference for his son. Speaker Carlisle does not feel that he can well afford to refuse the demand, and yet he is extremely reluctant to make an appointment which he would regard as wholly unsuitable and one forever to be regretted. Morrison may induce him to do it, but I should say not. He may get out of the difficulty by leaving out both Belmont and Cox, and giving the chairmanship to another man—say Andrew G. Curtin, whose appointment would be regarded by everybody as a fit and satisfactory one." These remarks by one of the most thoughtful and conservative Democrats in the House describe the situation fairly.

The talk of Governor Curtin for the place appears to have some foundation and the idea is said to have originated with the Speaker himself. He probably feels that the better sense of the Democratic party would appreciate his motives and commend his action, if he were to place at the head of Foreign Affairs a man like Andrew G. Curtin. There have been some rather pointed suggestions that the Speaker might allow a way out of his embarrassment on account of the Cox-Belmont controversy by appointing Abram S. Hewitt chairman of Naval Affairs and offering Mr. Cox the chairmanship of American Shipping.

### THE KENTUCKIANS NONE TOO MODEST.

This would of course, break the Speaker's "slate" for Ways and Means, but that has already been done at least a dozen times before in the last week. As it stood this afternoon it was as follows—Morrison, Blackburn, Hurd, Hewitt, Blount, Hatch, Hancock and Herbert, Democrats; and Kelley, Kasson, Hiseock, McKimley and Russell, Republicans. Mr. Hatch's name had been substituted for Mr. Buckner, because the latter preferred his old place at the head of Banking and Currency. The change also disposed of the conflicting claims of Messrs. Hatch and Aiken for Agriculture. Mr. Blount, instead of Mr. Hammond, of Georgia, was put down, because the latter said he preferred a place on the Judiciary Committee. He came to Washington expecting to be made chairman of the latter committee, but was offered Elections instead, which he declined.

It is still probable that Mr. Willis, instead of Mr. Blackburn, may be assigned to Ways and Means. Some of Mr. Blackburn's nearest friends say that he would prefer the chairmanship of Rivers and Harbors to a place on Ways and Means.

### CHANGES IN HOUSE COMMITTEES.

MR. HORT'S BITING SARCASTIC FAILS TO SAVE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The proposition to narrow the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Commerce by taking away from it the subject of river and harbor improvements provoked a lively debate to-day, in which Mr. Hort led the opposition. His speech contained some neat sarcastic hits, which were better enjoyed by the Republicans than by the other side. His suggestion that the Ways and Means Committee be divided into two committees—one on Ways and the other on Means—seemed to be a proper one. He remarked that one of these committees might have jurisdiction of all bills designed to break down and destroy American industries and the other of all measures tending to the protection and expansion of those industries. This division would give both factions of the Democratic party representation and an opportunity to be heard. Mr. Hort's recommendation that the Foreign Affairs Committee be divided created much amusement. He advised that to one of the new committees thus formed be given exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish question, with incidental authority to look after the lighter and less important duties relating to our affairs with the remainder of the world.

### THE JAMES M'HENRY PARTY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

CLEVELAND, Dec. 20.—James M'Henry, a railway postal clerk between this city and Indianapolis, was arrested by police officers inspectors as he passed by the Union depot last night on a charge of embezzling money and valuable from the mails. He made a partial confession to Inspector Brown, but before United States Commissioner White this morning declined to make any statement further than that he had been engaged in the pilfering business for the past four years. He was held over for trial.

### FATAL ACCIDENT TO A SICK MAN.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 20.—A Rogersville dispatch states that while William Hard, one of the wealthiest and most prominent residents of Hawkins County, was sitting alone in his room, he fell face forward into a bed of hickory coals. He was burned so severely that he died in a few hours. Mr. Hard was just recovering from a severe illness, and it is thought he fainted from exhaustion and fell into the fire.

### THE JAMES M'HENRY PARTY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

CLEVELAND, Dec. 20.—James M'Henry and the gentlemen with him will leave here to-morrow for New York. They have given up their intended trip to Florida. Mr. M'Henry will depart from New York after the holidays.

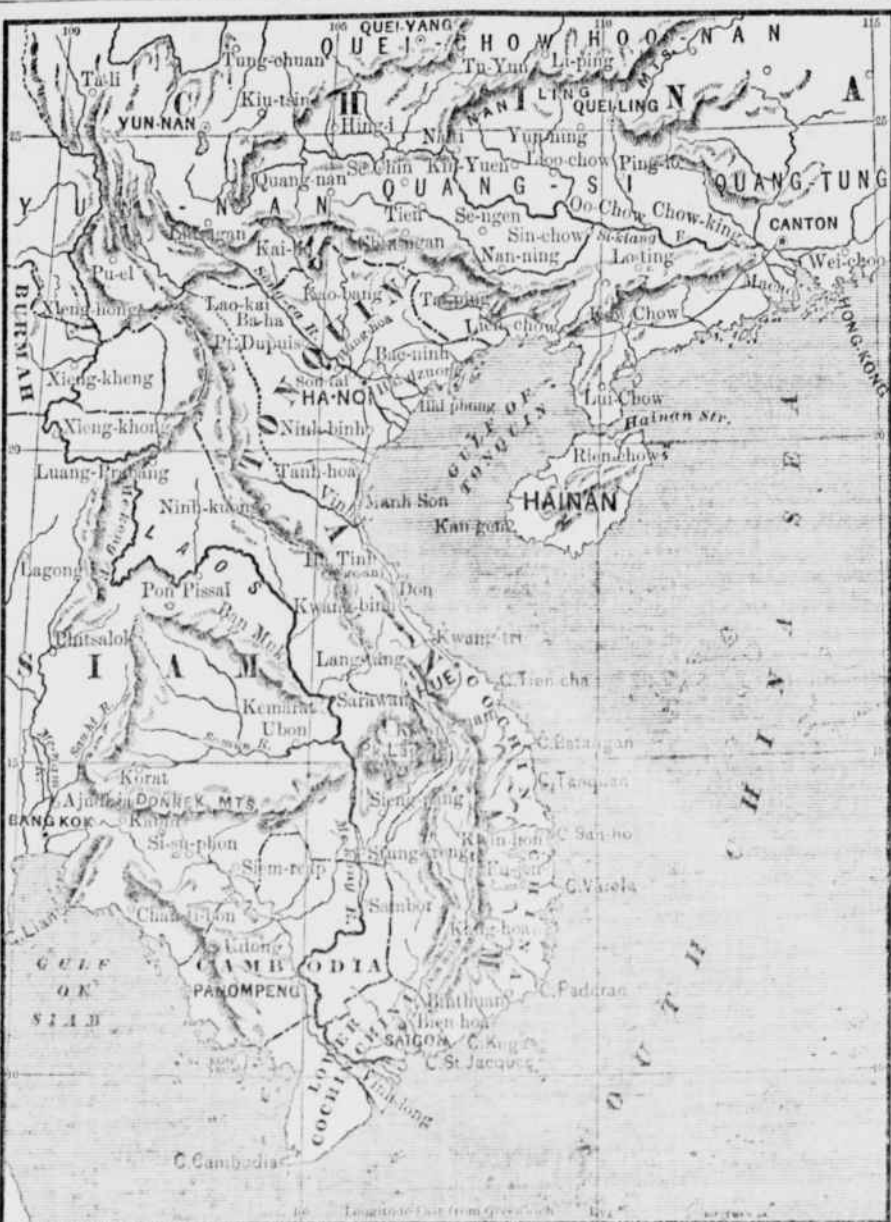
### ST. LOUIS MATCH AT ST. LOUIS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

St. Louis, Dec. 20.—The billiard match between C. C. Lott and Donovan closed last night in favor of the latter by a score of 800 to 414.

## THE FRENCH POSITIONS NEAR THE CHINESE FRONTIER.

The map shows the relative positions of the French and the Black Flags in Tonquin, and the frontiers of China and Annam. The entire district east of Siam, from Cape Cambodia to the Chinese position, has been for two centuries under the nominal suzerainty of the Imperial Court at Peking. The French acquired Siam and Lower Cochinchina in 1861, and assumed a protectorate over Cambodia. By the Treaty of 1874, which has never been presented to Her Majesty the Queen and the Privy Council, with a view of obtaining a repeal of the British North American act and forming a new confederacy of the Northwest provinces and British Columbia. After debate, the original proposition prevailed; but in the speech made by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons on a motion for a resolution that the British Government should not be bound by a treaty of a confederacy reaching from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean. This was applied.



## FIGHTING IN TONQUIN.

### A FRENCH VICTORY NEAR SONTAY.

THE PRINCIPAL OUTPOSTS CAPTURED BY ADMIRAL CUBERT.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

HONG KONG, Dec. 20.—The French forces have captured the principal outpost of Sontay, embracing five strongly fortified villages. The enemy made a stubborn resistance. The French lost two hundred men and fifteen officers killed and wounded. Admiral Courbet, who commanded the expedition, had 7,000 men, of whom 4,000 engaged in the fighting. The Chinese still hold the fortress of Sontay, and the others being held in reserve.

### THE SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT BILL.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The Government has received unofficial advice confirming the report of the capture of the villages around Sontay. A dispatch from Hong Kong states that the fight at Sontay occurred on December 14. Two of the outposts were captured and the citadel was surrendered by the French forces.

### THE NEW KING OF ANAM.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

SAIGON, Dec. 20.—According to advices from Hue, dated December 14, Yocue has been proclaimed King of Anam. The natives were greatly excited, and an attack upon the French legation was feared. The firm attitude of M. Champeaux, the French minister, had averted an attack by the natives. One hundred and fifty reinforcements have been sent to Hue from Fort Tonkin. It is considered urgently necessary to occupy Hue with a sufficient force to withstand any attack that may be made upon the French. No resistance, however, is expected on the part of the natives.

### THE CROWN PRINCE ENTERTAINED.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

ROME, Dec. 20.—The Crown Prince, King Humbert, Queen Margherita, the Duke of Aosta, Prince Paul of Baden and the members of the Italian Cabinet, except Signor Depretis, partook of breakfast with Baron de Kerdell, the German Ambassador, this morning.

### AN ACCIDENT TO THE CAR.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—A telegram from St. Petersburg says that while the Car was hunting in a sledge the horses of the vehicle slipped and the Emperor was thrown out. His Majesty's right shoulder was not injured.

### NO PLOT AGAINST MR. GLADSTONE'S LIFE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The police declare that there is no foundation for the rumors of a plot against the life of Mr. Gladstone and of the destruction of public buildings by explosives. The precautions that have been taken at Exeter Hall and elsewhere, the police state, were in consequence of a single threat.

## BERNHARDT AND COLOMBIER.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The extraordinary episode in the apartments of Mile. Marie Colombier on Tuesday afternoon continues to be a subject of animated gossip. It is now known that Sarah Bernhardt, upon starting out to avenge the wrongs inflicted by Mile. Colombier, armed herself with a dagger, which she carried in her left hand, while her right hand wielded the stinging whip. Mile. Colombier made no attempt at defense, but sought immediate escape by the back stairs; not, however, until her assailant had inflicted several painful blows across her face. Bernhardt, presenting the whip to the concierge on leaving the house, remarked that it had been given to her by the distinguished Marshal Carrobert; but that, as it had been laid across the visage of such an odious person as Marie Colombier, she disclaimed to give it house-room longer. During the affray which occurred in the lower part of the house, one of Sarah Bernhardt's friends said that if Mile. Colombier had any one willing to defend her in any particular, he was ready to fight him. Another friend told Bernhardt's picture from the wall and executed a frantic dance upon it, wildly asserting that it had been desecrated by the presence of Mile. Colombier. The appearance of Mile. Bernhardt at the theatre to take part in the rehearsal of the new play "Nana" was the occasion of great comment. Her friends saw many evidences of her sympathy with her, and the coolness of her demeanor after the real drama in which she played the part of leading lady was a theme of considerable applause. The general opinion now is that the affair will have its sequel in the law courts, as a consequence of speculation is busy as to what other developments will grow out of the culminated.

## INTERESTS IN PANAMA.

(BY CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN CABLE.)

PANAMA, Dec. 20, via Galveston.—Mr. Yrube, the new General Superintendent, has assumed control of the Panama Railway, and merchants and others anticipate improved management and fewer accidents. The Panama Canal works are being pushed forward with energy under the French engineer, Mr. Dighe.

## CHEERING FOR OBERDANK.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

ROME, Dec. 20.—During the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies to-day two men in the gallery caused great confusion by shouting "Viva Oberdank!" and throwing copies of Oberdank's will into the body of the chamber. They were arrested. Oberdank, a deserter from the Austrian Army and joined, in Trieste, a secret society. Oberdank and two Italian accomplices were discovered filling shells and bombs with nitro-glycerine at an inn in Rome. It was believed that they plotted to blow up the theatre at Trieste, at which were present the Emperor Francis Joseph and his family and Admiral Nisidion and other Austrian naval officials. Oberdank confessed that he drew lots in the society to determine which member should assassinate the Emperor, and the lot having fallen to him he intended to throw a bomb into the garden of Miramar Castle to accomplish the deed. He was tried, convicted and hanged on December 20, 1882.

## TOPICS IN THE DOMINION.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—Sir Charles Tupper has assumed the duties of Minister of Railways and Canals.

KINGSTON, Dec. 20.—At a meeting of the Kingston Presbytery to-day the Rev. Mr. Chambers charged the Rev. Mr. Gallagher with having married a man to his deceased wife's sister, and gave notice that he would move against Mr. Gallagher for violation of the rules of Church discipline.

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—In Chamber to-day an order was made on motion declaring the Hon. Adam Crooks, late Minister of Education for Ontario, a lunatic. The doctor's affidavit stated that he had only two years to live, at the outside.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A meeting was held last evening at Exeter Hall, at which Lord Lorne delivered a lecture upon Canada. Sir Alexander Galt introduced Lord Lorne to the audience. In doing so he disavowed for the Catholic fishermen of Canada any sympathy with the atrocious sentiments of the Fenians of New York.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—George E. Evans, a book keeper, was arrested to-day by a vacant and Chicago detectives, charged with obtaining \$5,000 from Charles Van Doren, of New York, one of the heirs of the Springer estate, at Wilmington, Del., which is valued at \$200,000, by the use of a forged certificate of heirship. The prisoner was held for extradition.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The plea of the New York Graphic Newspaper Company was lodged in court to-day in answer to the winding-up order. It denies all the allegations made in the petition. The directors assert that the proceedings are the result of a conspiracy to wreck the company.

## LAND TRUDS IN DAKOTA.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

LAMOTHE, Dakota, Dec. 20.—Detectives representing the Interior Department of the Government and the local land officers are this week scouring the Territory to ferret out the more flagrant cases of land grabbing. Just now they are giving special attention to the sparsely settled portion of the James River Valley, south of Laramie. In this region there are many cases of claims where there is no actual resident. The abuse appears more flagrant where the land has been surveyed and has been in the market for a considerable length of time. In such localities there are found many farms that have been secured under the preemption and homestead act from which crops are taken year after year, but which contain no improvements. In some cases the title is held by one individual to thousands of acres that are up in the air in the hands of the land company. In other instances homesteads are farmed in the same wholesale manner. There is a belief here that the Homestead Act will be repealed, and the Tree-claim Act amended.

## SUICIDE TO ESCAPE TORTURE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

DOUGLAS MOUNTAIN, Col., Dec. 20.—Much excitement is caused by the strange suicide of John Emerson, a miner, whose body was found partially covered with dirt, having the throat cut and gashed in a horrible manner. Emerson had worked a tunnel by himself, and the earth over him had evidently caved in. Some heavy rocks fell on his feet and legs, breaking his right ankle. He had doubtless taken out his knife and endeavored to cut himself loose, as his foot was stuck up and down in the earth. He was found by his wife after long and helpless waiting, and vain endeavors to get out of the drift, but he was found dead. The cause of his suicide is not known, but it is believed that he was driven to it by the torture of the miners.

## FIRE DAMPS STOPPING MINING.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 20.—The air course being cut off in the Pine Ridge Colliery by the recent cave-in, has forced the accumulation of fire damp in the mine to such an extent that it is impracticable for the miners to venture more than a few yards from the foot of the shaft into the mine. It is impossible to trace the cave-in or to ascertain the cause of it. Four hundred men are now out of employment.

## CANADIAN DUTY ON RAW SUGAR.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—Sugar refiners are urging the Government to reduce the duty on raw sugar imported for refining purposes, or else to raise the duty on American refined sugars, to enable them to increase the price of their own products. The refiners say that there is no profit in refining at present prices unless they can reduce the cost of the raw material. They are also asking a drawback, equivalent to the duty paid, on the raw material used in the manufacture of refined sugar. The Government has refused to make such concessions. The refiners hold that they will be in a position to compete in foreign markets, where they are now excluded.

## MANITOBA DEMANDS HER RIGHTS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Dec. 20.—The Manitoba and Northwestern Farmers' Union adopted a formal declaration of rights to-day after a long discussion. It demands for the Local Government the right to charter a railway in Manitoba; to have absolute control of public lands, including school lands; and to receive compensation for lands sold that the duty on agricultural implements and building materials be removed, and the customs tariff on articles of daily consumption greatly modified; declares that it is the duty of the Provincial Government to make such amendments to the municipal act as shall empower municipal councils to build elevators, grain warehouses and mills and to appoint grain inspectors; that this convention is unanimously of the opinion that the Hudson Bay Railroad should be constructed with the least possible delay.

## FUNERAL OF JAMES W. BOSLER.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

CARLEISLE, Penn., Dec. 20.—The funeral of the late James W. Bosler took place from his residence here to-day afternoon. The burial was in Ashland Cemetery. Among the persons present were Dr. S. W. Bliss, H. J. Ransdell, Clinton Wheeler and Dr. D. W. Bliss.

## H. O. THOMPSON'S DEVICES.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

MORE EXTRAORDINARY UNBALANCED BIDS. HOW CITY MONEY IS THROWN AWAY—MR. ROOSEVELT ON THE NECESSITY OF A LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY—COURT OF APPEALS DECISIONS. The details of three more extraordinary unbalanced bids for contracts in the Public Works Department are given to-day. It is shown that in one contract Mr. Thompson has classed the tearing-down of an old stone wall as "rock excavation," and the city has been made to pay an exorbitant price for the work. On this contract the city has already lost \$50,300, because of the false estimate and unbalanced bid. It is shown that in total disregard of the interests of the city Mr. Thompson has increased the annual pay of a relative over 400 per cent—making his pay equal to that of the Mayor. Assemblyman Roosevelt says that if elected Speaker he will insist on a thorough, exhaustive and impartial investigation of the Department of Public Works and of other branches of the city government. The Court of Appeals has rendered several decisions recently that bear upon the disclosures concerning unbalanced bids and other irregularities.

## PROFITING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CITY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

A CONTRACTOR WHO IS PAID AN EXORBITANT PRICE FOR TEARING DOWN A STONE WALL—PROSPERITY OF THE SMITH FAMILY. On one unbalanced bid contract, the particulars of which have already been printed in THE TRIBUNE, it was shown that James W. O'Grady was paid 700 per cent more than the amount of his bid. In that case he was paid \$50 a cubic yard for excavating rock while the fair value of the work was not more than \$3 a cubic yard. Mr. O'Grady was equally fortunate in a contract he obtained from Commissioner Thompson on June 20, 1882, for grading and grading Morningside-ave, from One-hundred-and-thirtieth to Tenth-ave. The amount of Mr. O'Grady's bid on this contract was \$60,399. So far he has earned \$102,880, and he is by no means through with his contract.

## MR. O'GRADY'S WONDERFUL FORESIGHT.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

The estimates on this contract were as usual as fault. The estimate on which bids were invited called for 2,330 cubic yards of earth excavation. On this item Mr. O'Grady bid an excessive price, 229 per cent greater than that of two other bidders. But his wisdom was manifest when the returns came in, as already he has taken out \$1,528 cubic yards of earth, or about 400 per cent more than the estimate. On rock he also bid a good price and the return also exceeds the estimate. But in this case the city has been paying him for work classed as "rock excavation" which was a different and less costly kind of work. A good deal of the rock excavation on this contract is nothing more than tearing down an old stone wall—a very different thing from excavating rock under the surface of the ground; and yet Mr. O'Grady is getting the same rate of pay for both. This estimate on this contract called for \$1,100 cubic yards of earth excavation. On this item Mr. O'Grady bid a low price and of course there was only about one-third of the quantity of filling called for actually supplied. For dry stone masonry Mr. O'Grady bid a large price, and here again his sagacity was evident from the fact that more than twice as much was required as the estimate called for. The bids of five different contractors for the work of regulating and grading under this contract were as follows:

	Excavating earth yard.	Excavating rock yard.	Filling per cubic yard.	Dry Stone masonry per cubic yard.	Grading per cubic yard.
J. Eversard	\$30	\$195	\$5	\$215	\$215
J. H. McKim	40	170	73	245	245
J. R. Devlin	224	135	58	410	410
W. J. O'Grady	114	202	12,000	1,500	1,500
J. W. O'Grady	70	193	11	397	397

Mr. Mahon's total bid, as made out by the estimated quantities made, was only \$3,000 more than the bid of O'Grady; but if Mahon had secured the contract at his prices the city would already have saved \$59,300. The estimated quantities and the returns already in vary as follows:

	Cubic yards of earth excavation.	Cubic yards of rock excavation.	Cubic yards of filling.	Cubic yards of dry stone masonry.	Total of all items.	Amount awarded.
Estimate	2,330	8,020	31,000	9,400	\$60,399	\$60,399
Actual	114	202	12,000	1,500	\$102,880	\$102,880
Price	\$79	\$193	\$11	\$397		

## MR. THOMPSON'S ATTEMPT AT EXPLANATION.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Controller Grant's attempt was attracted to this contract by the first voucher that came before him for payment. He immediately requested Mr. Thompson to explain the extraordinary variation between the estimate and the return. Mr. Thompson said that when the contract was advertised it was stated that if the Park Department did not do certain work on the line of the avenue that 3,400 yards less of filling and 3,400 yards more of dry stone masonry would be required; and that as the Park Department did not do the work, that made a difference in the estimate and return; further than that he had no excuse to offer other than the difficulty of making a correct estimate.

## OTHER INSTANCES OF IRREGULARITY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

As Mr. Thompson's explanation accounted for only a small part of the extraordinary difference between the estimate and return on this contract, and there was apparent knowledge on the part of the contractor that this would be the case, the Controller declined to pay the voucher without further examination. He saw the need of organizing the auditing bureau so as to be able to tell from his own inspectors and engineer whether or not the city was being swindled. In this way he ascertained that under the O'Grady contract tearing down a stone wall was reckoned as rock excavation, and so certified by Commissioner Thompson and paid for by the city. The examination is still in progress.

## ON A SMALL CONTRACT GIVEN OUT BY MR. THOMPSON.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

For receiving basins in Seventy-third-st., there was paid 53 per cent more than the total bid of the contractor, Edward Bradburn. In this case the estimate called for 30 cubic yards of rock excavation. But the returns showed that 200 yards were taken out, for which \$3 a cubic yard was paid.

## ON ANOTHER SMALL CONTRACT GIVEN TO THOMAS MURRAY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

For curbing and dazing on One-hundred-and-thirtieth-st., 42 per cent more was paid than the amount of the bid. The estimate in this case called for \$3,500 feet of flagging, while 6,930 were paid for by the city. How any difference could exist in the return and estimate for flagging is difficult to understand, as it is a mere matter of correct measurement.

## HOW MR. THOMPSON CARES FOR THE SMITH FAMILY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

But the estimate and return on Mr. Murray's contract were both the work of W. V. Smith, a surveyor who is in receipt of a large income from Mr. Thompson's department. He is the same surveyor who laid a street out five feet from the correct line. The Smith family are doing well in the Public Works Department. They are in receipt of handsome incomes. If not all, at least some, of them are known to be near relatives of Commissioner Thompson. Whenever the interests of the city conflict with the personal interests of Mr. Thompson, or of his kinsmen or personal favorites, the city must suffer. A fair illustration of this is shown in connection with the appointment of this city architect, Mr. Smith was employed as an architect and draughtsman at a salary of \$160 a month, which was paid out of the Croton Water Main Fund. But the improvements in the markets and the changes in other buildings gave Mr. Thompson a chance to make a much better place for his cousin. This young man resigned his place as architect on the Croton water main, and was appointed to take